

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 29

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 30

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 29—Relative to Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State June 8, 2011.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 29, Bonilla. Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

This measure would designate the month of February 2011 as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, and would encourage all Californians to observe Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month with appropriate programs and activities that prevent teen dating violence and promote healthy teen relationships in their communities.

WHEREAS, Teen dating violence is a serious and growing problem throughout California; and

WHEREAS, In a study of California high school pupils, 7 percent of pupils in grade 11 indicated that they were victims of teenage dating violence in the past 12 months; and

WHEREAS, According to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention survey, nearly 10 percent of high school pupils have been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend in the 12 months prior to the survey; and

WHEREAS, According to Liz Claiborne's 2009 Parent/Teen Dating Violence Poll, approximately one in three adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds victimization rates for other types of violence affecting youth; and

WHEREAS, Almost 20 percent of teenage girls exposed to physical dating violence did not attend school due to feeling unsafe at school, or on the way to or from school, on one or more occasions during the last 30 days; and

WHEREAS, Violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications for victims, putting them at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide, and adult victimization; and

WHEREAS, The severity of violence among intimate partners has been shown to be greater in cases where a pattern of violence has been established in adolescence; and

WHEREAS, Primary prevention programs are a key part of promoting healthy relationships and preventing teen dating violence, and many

successful school and community examples include education, community outreach, and social marketing campaigns that are culturally appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Skilled assessment and intervention programs are also necessary for youth who perpetrate teen dating violence and youth who are victimized; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month will benefit schools, communities, families, and all youth; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature proclaims the month of February 2011 as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, and supports communities to empower teens to develop healthy and violence-free relationships throughout their lives; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature encourages all Californians, including youths, parents, schools, law enforcement, state and local officials, and other interested groups, to observe Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month with appropriate programs and activities that prevent teen dating violence and promote healthy teen relationships in their communities; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.